

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GREEK FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY STAVROPOULOS INTERVIEW

REF: FBIS N: 191013Z JAN 76

1. GREEK FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY STAVROPOULOS, IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JANUARY 19 IN WEEKLY ELEFOTHERIS, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WOULD RESUME FEBRUARY 17 AS ANNOUNCED; SAID BIZONAL SETTLEMENT WAS PROBABLY UN-AVOIDABLE; AND WHILE CAUTIONING THAT "A DEFINITE SOLUTION CANNOT BE FOUND QUICKLY", SAID HE BELIEVED PROGRESS WILL BE MADE. STATEMENT HAS PROMPTED CAUTIOUS, FAVORABLE REACTION FROM TURK CYPRIOT SPOKESMAN, A SLIGHTLY DEFENSIVE "CLARIFYING" STATEMENT FROM GREEK EMBASSY IN NICOSIA, AND SHARP CRITICISM FROM MOST OF GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS. REACTIONS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW FOLLOW.

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2. TURKISH POSITION: STAVROPOULOS SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER TURKEY HAD BECOME LESS INTRANSIGENT. HE WAS CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT "TURKEY CANNOT POSSIBLY SIMPLY MEAN THAT CYPRUS WILL BE HANDED OVER TO IT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. IT NATURALLY MUST MEAN THAT IT WILL NEGOTIATE IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE WILL REACH SOME JUST RESULT FOR ALL SIDES. I DO NOT KNOW TURKEY'S INTENTIONS REGARDING CONCESSIONS IT IS GOING TO MAKE. WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT IF THERE ARE NO CONCESSIONS THEN I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHAT NEGOTIATION MEANS. THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS IS TO FIND OUT WHAT CONCESSIONS CAN BE MADE BY EACH SIDE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM".

3. GREEK-TURKISH OBSERVERS: WHILE THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION IN BRUSSELS BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS OF HAVING GREEK AND TURKISH EXPERTS ATTEND THE TALKS AT A MORE ADVANCED STAGE, "THERE IS NOTHING SPECIFIC..."

4. COMMON LINE: "THE COMMON LINE CAN BE NONE OTHER THAN THE ONE SET DOWN IN A VERY SMALL PHRASE BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THAT IS, THAT A SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND WHICH WOULD BE JUST, WITHIN THE PRESENT REALITY, AND WHOSE AIM WOULD BE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE 'INCIDENTS' WHICH HAVE REPEATEDLY OCCURRED IN CYPRUS DO NOT HAPPEN AGAIN."

5. REFUGEES: THIS A VERY COMPLICATED QUESTION AND "I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WILL FINALLY BE POSSIBLE FOR ALL THE REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES OR WHETHER ALL WILL WANT TO. VARIOUS SOLUTIONS...MUST BE EXAMINED. IT IS AN ISSUE THAT MUST BE TESTED IN PRACTICE. THE REFUGEES MUST, OF COURSE, CEASE TO BE REFUGEES."

6. BIREGIONAL FEDERATION: GREECE HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE BIZONAL SOLUTION BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE CURRENT MAP OF CYPRUS GIVES "IMPRESSION" THAT "IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE A BIZONAL SOLUTION." FOREIGNERS ARE VERY INFLUENCED BY EXISTENCE ON MAP OF TWO ZONES IN CYPRUS AND "IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW ONE COULD POSSIBLY CREATE 'POCKETS' IN ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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ONE PART... THEREFORE, THE BIZONAL SOLUTION IS CLOSE TO BECOMING DE FACTO."

7. NEED FOR SOLUTION: IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT A JUST SOLUTION BE FOUND. TO ACHIEVE THIS, "TURKS MUST MAKE THE REQUIRED CONCESSIONS; BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, WE TOO MUST BE ABLE TO FACE THE SITUATION WITH A CERTAIN REALIZATION THAT WE CANNOT HAVE ABSOLUTES. EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE AND WE

MUST SEE WHAT IS RELATIVELY JUST UNDER PRESENT-DAY CIRCUMSTANCES AND ACCEPT IT SO THAT CYPRIOTS CAN LIVE HAPPILY AND IN PEACE."

8. GREEK EMBASSY SPOKESMAN IN NICOSIA, ASKED IF STAVROPOULOS HAD BEEN CORRECTLY QUOTED, SAID: "IT WAS NOT A STATEMENT BUT AN UNOFFICIAL BRIEFING AND WHAT WAS SAID BY THE UNDER SECRETARY WAS QUOTED IN AN EXAGGERATED MANNER LIKELY TO LEAD TO MISINTERPRETATIONS."
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